

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02727 042247Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00

GSA-02 /068 W

-----111039 042251Z /15

O R 042225Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 195

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCOSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: MILITARY DECISION ON WHETHER TO POSTPONE BOLIVIAN
ELECTIONS REMAINS IN DOUBT

REF: LA PAZ 2674

1. SO FAR THERE ARE NO CLEAR SIGNALS ON WHETHER THE BOLIVIAN
MILITARY COMMANDERS' MEETING WILL DECIDE TO POSTPONE THE JULY
ELECTIONS. AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY'S SESSION (APRIL 3), THE
COMMANDERS ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT THE MILITARY ARE "ANALYZING
THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION BASED ON THE PREMISE OF THE
ARMED FORCES' DECISION TO RETURN THE NATION TO CONSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNMENT." WHILE SOME OBSERVERS TAKE THIS AS A HOPEFUL SIGN,
IT LEAVES THE MILITARY FULL FLEXIBILITY ON THE OUTCOME. PRESI-
DENT BANZER HIMSELF REMAINS NON-COMMITTAL.

2. MEANWHILE, PRESSURE TO PROCEED WITH THE ELECTION SCHEDULE
CONTINUES. THE MORNING DAILY NEWSPAPER PRESENCIA REPORTED
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STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADORS OF VENEZUELA, WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN
AND THE US AT THE WORLD BANK CONSULTATIVE MEETING UNDER THE
HEADLINE "ONLY WITH DEMOCRACY WILL BOLIVIA RECEIVE GREATER
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE." THE STORY CONTAINS AN ACCURATE REPORT OF THE
STATEMENTS OF THE FOUR AMBASSADORS. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
JUAN PEREDA ALSO IS ENGAGED IN A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY TO DRUM
UP SUPPORT WITHIN THE MILITARY FOR ELECTIONS AND HIS

CANDIDACY.

3. IN A CONVERSATION OF APRIL 4 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND
ARMY COMMANDER VILLALPANDO, VILLALPANDO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR THE USG'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR A
DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT. HE WAS ESPECIALLY
INTERESTED IN AMBASSADOR'S EXPLANATION OF US TIN POLICY AND
OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT ON GSA TIN SALES. VILLALPANDO
INDICATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WERE DETERMINED TO RETURN TO
CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT
THE JULY 9 DATE WOULD BE ADHERED TO.
BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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